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gations of geology (prehistoric archaeology) had shown that the great plain of Europe was from times immemorial the abode of man. In that plain no other than Indo-European speech was ever spoken; whereas the Indo-European languages in Asia are surrounded everywhere by allophyllic nations and languages. Indo-European in Asia obviously is (as in India or Armenia), or can easily be accounted for as, an overcrust. The non-Indo-European nationality of Asia Minor offers particularly good reason for assuming that these languages originated *somewhere in Europe*, and not *somewhere in Asia*, provided we include the Scythian steppes in the name Europe. If the spread of the Indo-Europeans had been from Asia to Europe the omission of Asia Minor is hardly explainable; the contrary movement from Continental Europe through Scythia into the Aryan (Indo-Iranian) region must naturally have passed around the water- and mountain-hedged peninsula of Asia Minor (see the maps). At a later time, a sea-faring time, Asia Minor began to be settled sporadically from Hellas and Thrace; then the Aegean Sea, Hellespont, Propontis, and Bosphorus, served as a bridge, rather than put apart, the two peninsulas of the Balkans and Asia Minor.

MAURICE BLOOMFIELD.

Scythians and Greeks: a Survey of Ancient History and Archaeology on the North Coast of the Euxine from the Danube to the Caucasus. By ELLIS H. MINNS, M.A., Fellow of Pembroke College. (Cambridge: University Press. 1913. Pp. xl, 720, with illustrations.)

NEARLY sixty years ago, Neumann published the first volume of his book *Die Hellenen im Skythenlande*—and died. Mr. Minns has been more fortunate; for, *πρῶτος ἀνθρώπων τῶν ἡμεῖς ἴδμεν*, he has attempted a history of Scythia, and lived to publish the whole. Now, having caught up these prodigious arrears (in essentials, if not in every detail), he will find it recreation to keep abreast of what the Russians write, and tell us at intervals what there is fresh to know. For this is a monumental book. The preliminary bibliography of Russian *serial* publications alone occupies four pages. As Mr. Minns says in his preface, he has attempted to begin at the beginning; so there is an admirable sketch of the physical geography of the region in chapter I., and a full summary in chapter VII. of its “pre-Scythic” culture, little known as yet, but very remarkable in its late neolithic and early bronze-age phases, with finely decorated pottery, painted with spirals and leaf-like designs which suggest affinities with Cucuteni and other Rumanian sites, and more remotely with one phase of neolithic Thessaly. Russian archaeologists may well be excused for thinking, in a first enthusiasm, that they had here the origin of the curvilinear painted ceramic of the Aegean: but there does not seem to be any evidence of such a connection.

But if this culture is “pre-Scythian”, who were the Scythians?

The evidence, as usual, is twofold: ancient testimony, and the results of modern research. Chapters II.-VI. take the first group of sources separately, and present what has come down to us of Greek belief, in a scholarly and cautious way. Chapters III. and V., on Herodotus's account of the country, and of adjacent regions, will naturally attract the attention of "classical" readers, who will value the references to the large Russian literature of this problem. Ethnologists will turn rather to chapter VI. on the migrations of peoples in or out of Scythia in historic times, both for the intrinsic interest of these, and for the light which they throw (by analogy) on the obscurer question of the origin and distribution of the Scythians, as known to the Greeks. This is one line of attack, the ethnological: it does not lead us very far; for our knowledge of the Scythian language is fragmentary, the subsequent intruders above mentioned have probably confused the qualities of the steppe-population beyond possibility of analysis, and (as Mr. Minns is careful to point out) the osteological evidence of interments is of little value till we can determine the date and cultural phase of the particular "kurgans" which contain them: and as he says (p. 145), "kurgan" is just the Russian for "barrow", and there are barrows of all periods from "pre-Scythian" to the thirteenth century. There are also very important "burial-areas" which are not surmounted by a "kurgan". Moreover, the measurements known to Mr. Minns lead to no very decisive result. He treats this matter, however, very briefly, and with less than his usual armament of references. He would add greatly to the debt which we owe him already, if he would some day publish, in collaboration with a professed anthropometer, a digest of all the works on South Russian types of man. A quite fresh line of attack on the ancient accounts of Scythian physiognomy and pathology is opened, by the way, in Mr. W. R. Halliday's recent article in the *Annual* of the British School at Athens on the folk-lore of the *θήλεια νοῦσος*. Whatever their racial characteristics, there seems little doubt that the Scythians of classical time represent in the main the result of a fairly recent period of ethnic disturbance, and that their culture has a quality of its own. The long chapter VIII., therefore, which deals with "Scythian" tombs and their contents, is of central importance in this book. It is most carefully compiled, and richly illustrated—the reproductions of the Kul-Oba ivories are wonderful—and it will remain for long the standard place of reference for the known material, and a sure starting-point for subsequent reviews of discovery. To those who are not already acquainted with the finds, the wealth and variety and the really artistic quality of many of the objects will be amazing; and to any one who is interested in the workings of Hellenic culture on adjacent civilizations and styles, most instructive, and full of perplexing suggestions. With this wealth of genuine material at his disposal, Mr. Minns can afford to be brief about modern prowess: of a famous recent controversy, he gives us the upshot neatly (p. 461): "Saitaphernes would

have been much pleased with Rachumovski's work, had it been executed in time." The well-known Vetersfelde find, on the other hand, falls here into its proper context; and there is a cautious note on the rude stone figures known as "*Kámenya Báby*", which are often found on Scythian tumuli, but are almost certainly of medieval workmanship.

Less liable to disturbance than Scythia, and presenting clear analogies and similarities in its culture, the great Siberian province falls properly within the scope of a work of this kind, and is adequately but concisely treated in chapter IX. From a comparison between its data and the less foreign-looking objects in the tombs of Scythia itself, it is possible, with all reserve, to frame a notion of the characteristics of Scythian art (ch. X.), and to distinguish the principal sources of non-Scythian influence which modified its course; also to trace Scythian influence, and especially the trail of Scythian zoomorphic design, over a wide area of northern Asia, where it meets and blends grotesquely with the "*Persian beast-style*", a zoomorphic art of wholly different origin.

At this point the book falls a little into two halves. It has traced the history and archaeology of Scythia down to the point where the arts of the Greek colonies along the Black Sea frontage had become the dominant influence, and purely Greek masterpieces like the Chertomlyk bow-case and the Kul-Oba vase were being imported for the use of Scythian chiefs, and (what is more) were being made by artists familiar with Scythian life and manners, as the representations on these objects show. Now comes, in its proper place, the study of the Greek colonies themselves, which are the nurseries of the Scythian Hellenism, beneficent or disastrous according to the capacity and temperament of the individual Hellenized. The connecting link is the material culture of these cities; their political history and their topography are but the setting of the jewel, the Greek spirit which founded, and possessed them so long. And this material culture of the South Russian sites is of more than local importance. Nearly all that we know of Greek woodwork, textiles, and decorative painting, comes (in the accidents of archaeology) from these remote cities, which play so small a direct part in Greek history as we commonly read it. Even in departments of skilled handicraft, such as jewelry, in which we have other sources, in Etruria and Cyprus, many of the finest examples, and many also of the best-dated, are won from Scythian soil. Sculpture, in a country so ill-provided with fine stone as most of Scythia is, naturally makes but a poor show, though the beautiful little head from Olbia which is figured on page 292 shows that the taste for good work was not lacking. Painting, less dependent on natural accident for its execution, flourished splendidly, as the early stele of Apphé and the catacombs of Kertch attest, and passed on into reckless luxuriance in later examples. Some of the decorated vases and terra cotta figures may very well be local studies from the Greek designs which they reproduce. Many of these portable objects are, however, certainly from workshops in the Aegean or beyond:

Athens, Megara, or Alexandria. The rich series of glass work also seems to have been all imported, and on page 82 Mr. Minns says that all of it except the beads is probably Roman. Probably he is right; but on page 362 he refers to "the early kinds, as at Kurdzhips"; meaning apparently the amphora which on page 224 he assigns to the last century B. C. In view of the great difficulty, which we experience at present, in filling the technological gap between the early Greek and the Graeco-Roman fabrics of variegated glass, it would be interesting to follow up these Scythian glass finds more in detail. Even in Kisa's otherwise thorough treatise, *Das Glas in Altertume*, this Scythian material receives less attention than it deserves. Bronzes are curiously rare, but are more frequently of local workmanship than we should expect in that event. In jewelry, the rather sudden and very copious use of colored stones, at and after Alexander's time, repeats, of course, a change which is familiar in other parts of the Greek world; but it would be an important contribution to our knowledge if it could be ascertained whether the stones are of the same quality and materials as elsewhere, or whether they betray another origin. The answer (which perhaps some Russian mineralogist or jeweler has already written out, for Mr. Minns to translate) has an obvious bearing on the question whether the gold work in which they are set was made in the Pontic colonies, or imported from Alexandria or some other of the great centres of this industry. Mr. Minns suggests that the principal sources of these colored stones were the "accumulations of the Persian realm in Iran and Nearer Asia"; did anything from this source come out at Pontic ports and not go round by the great Levantine emporia?

The Greek tombs in which these treasures lay show a special series of constructive forms, and some local peculiarities of arrangement and furniture (ch. XII.). This chapter is short and Mr. Minns apologizes for his inability to press comparisons with other Hellenic types; but if there are deficiencies, they are certainly not on the side which alone he professes to cover, the presentation of the South Russian evidence in a form in which specialists can use it.

The Greek cities to which these rich tombs belonged have left fairly copious remains, and some of them have been carefully examined. There is, however, still room for extensive excavation on all the principal sites; and the chapters (XIV.-XIX.) on Tyras, Olbia, Cercinitis, Chersonesus, Theodosia, Nymphaeum, and Bosphorus necessarily record, for the most part, only what has been made out with some certainty by surface exploration, and (for political history) by the study of the coins and inscriptions. But the conclusion of the whole matter, for the lay reader at all events, is summed up rather in the section on Colonization and Trade (ch. XIII.), which has, by the way, a select bibliography of its own (p. 444). Mr. Minns thinks that the Cimmerians of the Odyssey represent tales of the Cimmerian Bosphorus, "a land weird enough with its mud-volcanoes and marshes to supply the groundwork for a

picture of the Lower World"; and is tempted to bring the Laestrygonians into this region with them. But he does not feel himself forced by this conclusion to bring down the date of this knowledge of the Scythian foreshore into Hellenic times, and in this he is probably well advised. There is, however, some need for caution against taking for more than they are worth either von Stern's comparisons of the painted vases (already noted) from South Russian tombs with the early Minoan pottery, or the recent stress laid by some German scholars on Greek place-names suggestive of a "Carian" sea-power in prehistoric times. "Carian" theories are as old as Herodotus, and they die almost as hard in Germany as theories Pelasgian do among English scholars. Of very different value is Mr. Minns's own comparison (pp. 437-438) of the Gothic sea-raiders of the third century A. D. (and he might have added the Varangian Northmen, later still) who "took as kindly to sea-raiding" on reaching the Black Sea from the interior of Europe, as he suggests that previous intruders may have done "in the Middle Ages of Greece". Certainly the ancient accounts of the range of "Cimmerian" raids suggest that these northern aggressors had sea-power. A phrase on the same page suggests that Mr. Minns shares the conclusion of Dr. Leaf and others as to the obstruction offered by the Trojan power to Aegean explorers of the North. On the Milesian colonization he has not much to say, perhaps because beyond the bare outlines there is not much to be said; but it is at the cost of undervaluing somewhat the factor of skill and experience in the selection of the greater sites. Until we know more clearly which of the early settlements *failed*, we have not perhaps the material for a decision. Much depends on the question, how soon the Siberian gold began to be transmitted westward, and how far west it came. If, as seems not unlikely, such gold was traded into Balkan lands quite early (though Mr. Minns perhaps would not agree) it was not beyond the calculation of Milesian navigators that a sea-way which ran out so far to the north and up so far along the Scythian rivers might tap this gold-route, just as they (and the Argonauts before them) already knew that there was a "golden fleece" in Colchis. The discovery of a vase of geometric style on the island of Berezan in the neighborhood of Olbia suggests further that (as we should in any case expect) Greek explorers came, and Greek manufactures were traded, before the great rush of colonization in the seventh century: and this means time for a good deal to be found out about the hinterland as well as about the coast. Against Berthier de Lagarde's scepticism about the northern gold, we may set a bit of folk-lore which may be more than coincidence. Herodotus knows that the northern gold comes from far to the northeast of Scythia, and that it is guarded by fabulous griffins. Now the alluvial gold of Western Siberia is often found in gravels containing remains of rhinoceros and other large animals; and the horns of the rhinoceros are recognized by the native gold-diggers as the armament of gigantic birds which formerly haunted the gold-fields. This is

hardly a story "to attract enterprise", as Mr. Minns puts it (p. 440), unless shooting-rights went with the "claim". It looks now like a bit of real local myth, explanatory at first, and manipulated, if at all, with intent to deter Greek prospectors, not to allure them. Mr. Minns makes an interesting point, further on, when he notes the almost total lack of evidence for the use of furs among Greeks outside Pontus. If anything, to wear furs was distinctive of the barbarian: as in Euripides, *Cyclops*, l. 330. The protests of the austere against the luxury of fur-wearing hardly begin before the Christian Fathers, and belong to a time when fashions were set in Byzantium, where the winter is bitter, not in Miletus or Athens or even in Ephesus.

As will be evident already, Mr. Minns has put scholars under a very great obligation of gratitude, for a book of wide learning, and sound judgment: and he is all the more to be congratulated on the completion of it, because none knows better than he that a task like this is pleasantly endless; it takes some courage to write "press" across the sheets and begin fair and square on your "Addenda". And we look for very copious Addenda from Mr. Minns.

J. L. MYRES.

Greek Imperialism. By WILLIAM SCOTT FERGUSON, Professor of Ancient History, Harvard University. (Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company. 1913. Pp. xiv, 258.)

It has for several years been the opinion of the reviewer that Mr. Ferguson is to be ranked at the very forefront of English-writing scholars in the field of Greek history. His early studies in Greek chronology gave him immediate recognition, greater in Europe, perhaps, than in the United States because of the greater interest there in ancient history. The recognition so quickly attained has been justified by the number and quality of his scientific studies published in classical and historical journals of the United States, England, and Germany. By his excellent book on *Hellenistic Athens*, Mr. Ferguson established once for all his reputation as a scholar capable of a sustained constructive effort. In the present volume upon Greek imperialism, which consists of the Lowell Lectures delivered in February of 1913, he appears in a new endeavor, and subjects himself thereby to criticism and evaluation from a new standpoint, that of his ability to address a lay audience and leave with it sharply defined impressions of the meaning and course of Greek imperialism.

In seven chapters the author has presented the progress of Greek imperialism from the organization of the Peloponnesian League in the seventh century B. C. to the time when Greek political life became but a minor factor in the great composite of the Roman Empire. The first chapter is given over to the definition of the political terms and an explanation of the general situation involved in the remainder of the book, especially to the city-state and its ideals and the formation of